


INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P071897WO	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/03617	International filing date (day/month/year) 19.08.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 19.08.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC F16L9/12		
Applicant UPONOR INNOVATION AB et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
  - II ☐ Priority
  - III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
  - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
  - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  04.02.2004	Date of completion of this report  16.11.2004
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**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-17 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-20 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

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**III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application,

☒ claims Nos. 16,19

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☒ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 16,19

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1,17,20
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	2-15,18
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-15,17,18,20
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

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Patent documents GB-A-2297137 (D1) (see in particular page 13, lines 15-22) and GB-A-2297138 (D2) (see in particular page 14, line 25 to page 15, line 5) both describe a plastics pipe which comprises an inner core and an outer removable skin layer bonded thereto,

the outer removable skin layer comprising at least two layers of compatible polymeric materials, a first outer protective layer chosen for its physical and mechanical properties, and a second inner bonding layer which adheres to the inner core, the adhesion of the bonding layer to the inner core being sufficient to prevent substantial undesired relative movement between the skin layer and the core during installation, but insufficient to prevent the outer skin layer from being cleanly removed by peeling, at least at the ends of the pipe, and insufficient to cause a substantial reduction in the impact strength of the inner core.

D1 (see claim 13) and D2 (see claim 15) also describe a method for the production of a plastics pipe comprising an inner core and an outer removable skin layer bonded thereto, the outer removable skin layer comprising at least two layers of compatible polymeric materials, a first outer protective layer chosen for its physical and mechanical properties, and a second inner bonding layer which adheres to the inner core, which method comprises co-extruding molten polymeric materials forming the inner core and the outer removable skin layer from one or more extruder dies, bringing the molten polymeric materials together and allowing them to cool, such that, on cooling the adhesion of the bonding layer to the inner core is sufficient to prevent substantial undesired relative movement between the skin layer and the core during installation of the pipe, but insufficient to prevent the outer skin layer from being cleanly removed by peeling, at least at the ends of the pipe, and insufficient to cause a substantial reduction in the impact strength of the inner core.

D1 (see claim 19) and D2 (see claim 21) A method of making a joint to a plastics pipe which comprises peeling the skin layer from the region or regions of the pipe to be joined to expose a clean surface suitable for electrofusion jointing, installing an electrofusion fitting over the clean surface or surfaces of the pipe or pipes and activating the electrofusion fitting to fuse the region or regions of the pipe or pipes thereto.

Thus, the subject-matter of claims 1, 17 and 20 does not meet the requirements of Article 33(2) PCT as it is not new.

Dependent claims 2-15, and 18 do not appear to contain any features which, in

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combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step as they appear to relate to conventional aspects of plastic pipes or are rendered obvious by D1 and D2.